



**United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development**

**MAY 05 2009**

SUBJECT: Compliance with RUS Seismic Safety Regulations

TO: State Directors  
Rural Development

ATTENTION: State Program Directors  
State Engineers

FROM: JACQUELINE PONTI-LAZARUK  
Assistant Administrator  
Water and Environmental Programs  
Rural Utilities Service

Water and Waste Disposal program design policies to address seismic safety are included at 7 CFR 1780.57(o) and 7 CFR 1792, Subpart C. Subpart C, "Seismic Safety of Federally Assisted New Building Construction" includes requirements applicable to the design of any building, defined as a structure fully or partially enclosed and intended for sheltering persons or property.

Design engineers and architects must ensure that all new buildings are designed in compliance with the International Code Council's "*International Building Code*," the American Society of Civil Engineers' "*Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures*," or other standard providing a level of safety substantially equivalent to the level provided by the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, "*Recommended Provisions for the Development of Seismic Regulation for New Buildings*."

Subpart C requires that the design engineer place an acknowledgement on the plan cover sheet submitted for Rural Development concurrence indicating the identification and date of the model code or standard that was used in the seismic design of the building project. The plans and specifications must also be dated, signed, and sealed by the registered architect or engineer; however, there is no requirement for completion of a certification form for WWD.

If there are any questions, please contact me at [ben.shuman@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:ben.shuman@wdc.usda.gov) or 202-720-1784.

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